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Some Early Books about the California
Wine Industry
by Maynard L. Amerine

A Visit with Stanley Morison by Muir Dawson

Some Random Reveries of a San Francisco Antiquarian Bookman by Harold C. Holmes

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UARTERLY NEWS LETTER

Some Early Books
about the California Wine Industry
by Maynard L. Amerine*

HE grape and wine industry of California was established in San Diego County by the Franciscans, following the establishment of Mission San Diego de Alcala in July 1769. Information about the industry in this State for the next ninety years is contained primarily in travellers' diaries, records of early settlers, scanty official records of the Spanish, Mexican, and American periods, and occasional newspaper and periodical accounts. Books on grapes and wines were not new in America. Following Adlum in 1823, there were books on these subjects by many authors; for example, Dufour (1826), Loubat (1829), Rafinesque (1830), Busby (1848), Buchanan (1852), Cholton (1852 and 1853), Reemelin (1855), Saunders (1863), and others. But none of these even mentions California.

In the 1860's, however, two books about wine in California were published, both of which contained interesting material on its production. The first of these—and the more important—

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was Colonel Agoston Haraszthy's *Grape Culture*, *Wines and Wine-Making*.¹ Until recently, this book was not difficult to obtain, but collectors have now forced the price to more than over \$25.00

per copy.

Haraszthy arrived in Northern California in 1852 from Hungary via Wisconsin and San Diego. He was an enthusiastic viticulturist and lost no time in starting a vineyard. In 1858, he wrote an essay for the State Agricultural Society on grape culture. This apparently had immense influence in the increased plantings of grapes which occurred during this decade. When the legislature of 1861 authorized a commission "to report on the improvement and culture of the vine in California," Governor Downey appointed Colonel Haraszthy as one of the committee to make the report. The ebullient colonel succeeded at once in pursuading the governor that a trip to Europe was the means of fulfilling the objectives of the resolution—Haraszthy to make the trip! Unfortunately, however, he failed to secure adequate political support for this jaunt. His bill for the vines he brought back was presented to the 1862 legislature but was never paid. How much he made from the sale of his book or from the vines is not known.

The first portion of Haraszthy's book is a straightforward account of his travels through France, Italy, and Spain during the Fall of 1861. A brief essay on California as a grape-and-wine-producing region then follows. Translations and reprints of books and articles on wine, silkworms, drying fruits, sugar beets, etc., occupy more than half the text. Our interest is naturally on the portions written by Haraszthy and particularly on what he had to say about California.

The travel section seems to be a transcription of Haraszthy's journal. It is burdened with much of the transitory minutae of the hurried traveller and is without literary pretension. That he got the whole manuscript ready, including a lengthy translation from German, within eight months after leaving California for Europe, is a monument to his industry.

On the credit side, it is a first-hand account of "what he saw."

¹ Grape Culture, Wines and Wine-making, with Notes upon Agriculture and Horticulture, with numerous illustrations. By A. Haraszthy. New York, Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1862. 420 pp.

He made notes on literally everything, particularly if it was of agricultural interest. Throughout, he makes comparisons between California and what he saw in Europe. Furthermore, he wrote articles in praise of California everywhere he went. It is obvious that Haraszthy was a charter member of the California Chamber of Commerce! He was seldom rebuffed. The most notable example was the American minister in Paris who declined to receive him "for several days." So he left Paris without seeing the minister.

The important section of the book follows—a scant sixteen pages devoted to grapes and wines in California, much of which was taken from his 1858 essay previously mentioned. On the basis of this account, we must conclude that Haraszthy was a competent writer on the subject. True, his enthusiasm is sometimes excessive, but his advice is surprisingly accurate for the period. He correctly finds the vine well adapted to California's climates and soils. He writes simply and well on how to lay out a vineyard and care for it until it is in production.

Haraszthy's greatest contributions to California viticulture were his abiding enthusiasm for the industry and his large importations of vines from Europe. It is not true that he made the first direct importations of grapes from Europe. His were, however, among the largest, and if one of them (Leggett says an importation from Hungary in 1851 did) contained the Zinfandel grape, it was of paramount importance, because this grape soon became—and still remains—the most widely planted red-wine grape of the State.

Just five years after Haraszthy's book, a remarkable and little-known book on wine, entitled *Hyatt's Hand-Book*, was published by Thomas Hart Hyatt. The first edition is rare.²

Hyatt came to California in the early Sixties after a career as United States consul in Morocco and China. He purchased land in Napa, Solano, and Yolo Counties and decided to plant

² Hyatt's Hand-Book of Grape Culture; or, Why, Where, When and How To Plant and cultivate a Vineyard, Manufacture Wines, etc., Especially Adapted to the State of California, as also to the United States, Generally. By T. Hart Hyatt. First edition. San Francisco, H. H. Bancroft and Company, 1867. 279 pp. Second edition. A. L. Bancroft & Company, 1876. 279 pp. (The two editions are the same except for the 37-page addendum of the second, which contains considerable information of historical interest.)

a vineyard. He wrote the book as a preparation for this undertaking! He was not altogether unprepared, however, having been in the Mediterranean area and he refers particularly to his vineyard experience in Morocco. After several years' residence on the Mediterranean and after trips to Spain, Java, Japan, Central and South America, and Cuba, he came "to the conclusion that of all the countries he has become acquainted with, California presents altogether the most favorable prospects for the culture of the grape . . . " In both editions, he mentions the Zinfandel, but spells it Zinfindal and Zinfindel. Apparently, the variety had already taken hold in 1867.

By 1876, he reported "the incontrovertible fact that the culture of the vine is a settled, essential element in the present and future prosperity of our State . . . California has the best soil and climate in the United States, if not in the world, for the growth of the grape." Some of his other predictions were less accurate. Grapes do require irrigation in large areas of California, grape production can be overdone, grapes are subject to diseases and pests here, and the profit is not, normally, 25 per cent per annum. On the credit side, the shipping of grapes from California east by rail has proved an extraordinarily lucrative industry, and grape-growing is a profitable and pleasant rural employment though we might hesitate to add "sure" and "healthful."

In his directions for planting grapes, Hyatt was not the most accurate of writers. His list of varieties for planting in California reads like a nurseryman's prospectus and is generally uncritical. Yet it shows that a large number of varieties were available for

planting in California during this period.

The Husmann family has received too little credit for their contributions to American viticulture and wine-making. George Husmann's father seems to have been interested in grapes and wine in Missouri during the 1820's. George started a vineyard at Hermann, Missouri, and, once he caught the fever, his enthusiasm knew few bounds. By 1866, his zeal grew into a book.³

At the time this book was written, Husmann had not discovered the Pacific, though he writes, "California bids fair to outdo us all; for there, I am told, several kinds of wine are made

³ The Cultivation of the Native Grape and Manufacture of American Wines. By George Husmann. New York, Geo. C. Woodward, 1866. 192 pp.

from the same grape, in the same vineyard and in fabulous quantities." This was, and unfortunately is, too true.

By 1880, Husmann was professor of horticulture at the University of Missouri, and he wrote another book on grapes and wines which did include information on California.4 Three chapters were written by Californians—one on the Fresno area by Gustaf Eisen (who later wrote a treatise on raisin-making in California), another about the Sonoma Valley by Julius Dresel (a pioneer producer of high-quality white wines near Sonoma), and the last by H. W. Crabb (proprietor of an important vineyard and winery in the Napa Valley) concerning Napa County. It is of interest to note that all three wrote Zinfindel instead of Zinfandel.

Husmann himself continued to write like a Victorian clergyman: "We will have to work early and late, however, with head and hands, for it is not an easy task upon which the grapegrower enters. It is not the life of a sluggard, nor the romantic idyl of poetic leisure. But what of that? Our task is the production of one of God's noblest gifts to man, and we will follow it with hopeful hearts, in the confidence that He will send His sunshine as well as His showers, to gladden our hearts and to further our work, until it is crowned by a rich harvest of purple and golden clusters, and their juice changed into 'Wine that maketh glad the heart of man'."

He had, therefore, served his apprenticeship in grape-growing and wine-making in Missouri and with this stirring credo he proceeded westward: "It took a brave heart then, and an iron will; the determination to succeed, yes, succeed against all obstacles. And yet, hundreds have commenced thus, and have succeeded. Can you hesitate, when the future is all bright before you, and the thousand and one obstacles have been overcome? If you do you are not fit to be a grape-grower."

Husmann arrived in California about 1881 and planted the Talcoa vineyard in the Napa Valley. The first edition of his book on California wines and grapes was published in 1888.5

⁴ American Grape Growing and Wine Making. By George Husmann. New York, Orange Judd Company, 1880. 243 pp. 5 Grape Culture and Wine-Making in California; a Practical Manual for the Grape-Grower and Wine-Maker. By George Husmann. San Francisco, Payot, Upham & Co., Publishers, 1888 (copyright 1887).

He had not completely outgrown his Missouri habitat. He still recommended Herbemont and Lenoir varieties which he had found good in Missouri but which were not destined for California. Husmann's quaint recommendation that women do the lighter vineyard work, he justifies as follows: "I want to bring them to a healthier atmosphere, morally and physically, than they now breathe . . . furnish pleasant and light employment to thousands who are confined in the cities and inadequately paid for work that will eventually ruin their constitution."

Husmann's last book was his best from the California point of view. Generally, he correctly evaluated the grape and wine-growing problems of California. He did not hesitate to criticize such authorities as Arpad Haraszthy—the son of Agoston—for recommending that white wines be produced by fermenting on the skins for three or four days. His enthusiasm was still boundless: "The most prosperous, happy and sober commonwealth on the shores of the Pacific, the Golden State of California, richer in her golden wine and fruits than its mines ever made it."

Perhaps the most unusual of the early books was that of E. H. Rixford.⁶ Rixford was a prominent surgeon of San Francisco, who had become interested in the production of wine. His vineyard and winery were located at Woodside in San Mateo County. Remnants of both still exist. This book, like Hyatt's, was apparently written as a preparation for his winemaking venture. Much of the text is thus derivative and of a secondary interest. However, for its time and place, it was quite remarkable. He touches on all phases of wine-making from harvesting grapes to preparation of a colored sealing wax for covering the neck of the bottle. It was probably the most advanced treatise in English in 1883, on the subject of wine-making per se.

His advice is generally good, though he sometimes fails to distinguish between acceptable and desirable practices in the winery. What is most important is his keen interest in the technical aspects of wine-making—a subject which was only his hobby. It is unfortunate that other early wine-producers did not share his interest. It is not surprising that his wines became famous.

⁶ The Wine Press and the Cellar, a Manual for the Wine-Maker and the Cellar-Man. By E. H. Rixford. San Francisco, Payot, Upham & Co., New York, D. Van Nostrand, 1883. 240 pp.

A Visit with Stanley Morison

by Muir Dawson*

NY person who dips into the extensive and stimulating literature on the history of printing cannot fail to encounter frequently the name of Stanley Morison. And, having discovered the name, he cannot fail to be reverently impressed with the clarity and importance of his writings. A careful reading of First Principles of Typography, on Type Faces, Towards an Ideal Type, or almost any other of the 142 various published writings of Stanley Morison is usually enough to make any reader a devoted "fan."

Until recently, I thought I had read almost everything published by Morison. Any such notion was quickly dispelled when I perused a copy of A Handlist of the Writings of Stanley Morison, by John Carter (Cambridge, 1950). Many of his writings have been printed in small editions and are difficult to obtain. One of his latest works is Notes on the Development of Latin Script from Early to Modern Times (Cambridge, 1949), 50 copies for private circulation. Happily, there are readily available enough of his significant writings to engage even the most devoted student.

Although he has journeyed extensively in the United States, the latest being six weeks in the spring of 1948 as Visiting Fellow on the John M. Wing Foundation at the Newberry Library in Chicago, he has never braved the "Wild West" for a visit to the Pacific Coast. Let us hope that his California friends will persuade and enable him to partake of a California welcome on the occasion of his next trip to the United States.

What manner of man is Stanley Morison? How is he able to produce so much original research? I had read two competent biographical accounts of his work (Signature, No. IV and Signature, New Series, No. III), but had not found any of my acquaintances who had met him. In October, 1950, I was in London on

^{*}Muir Dawson specializes in fine printing and typography, and operates a private press in his home; he and his brother, Glen, manage Dawson's Book Shop in Los Angeles.

a book-buying trip, and, after several weeks, was despairing of finding a proper way to meet a person who rated so high on my list of important Englishmen. Finally, Miss Winnie Myers, president of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association, came to my rescue and arranged a visit in his office at Printing House Square.

As historian of The Times, Stanley Morison has his office on the second floor of a carpeted and antique-furnitured building, to which I was conducted by one of the young Times messengers stationed at the entrance to guide callers through the massive aggregation of buildings. I was met by a tall, handsome gentleman in his early sixties. He was obviously busy, but possessed the graciousness of making my brief visit seem like a leisurely evening with an old friend. After pulling up a chair for me, he leaned back in his reclining chair, placed his thumbs in his vest pockets—and the conversation didn't lag. In the course of our chat, I apologetically confessed that my small stock of type consisted mainly of Caslon, but quickly produced a business card designed for me by Saul Marks in Bembo type. He brightened at this and gravely told me, while pointing to the card, "This is the type." I have seen the error of my ways and now own a small amount of Bembo.

In the course of my conversation with Mr. Morison, I found answers to my many questions concerning his work. His research was not subsidized by a private fortune, nor were the tedious hours of research in numerous libraries and collections done for him, but by him. His information is not acquired by magic, but by hard work, usually before and after a full day's employment, which consists these days, I believe, of time divided between writing a history of The Times and as typographical advisor to the Monotype Corporation. Aside from his obvious genius for correlation of previously unrelated material, Mr. Morison has undoubtedly developed an effective system of note-taking which permits attention to many projects simultaneously over a period of years. A full account of his technique would be of great interest, I think, to both aspiring and accomplished researchers in all fields.

It is characteristic of Mr. Morison, that after producing a book or articles, his interest transfers immediately to another subject; and, were it not for some of his enthusiastic friends, many of his

writings would not be proofread and printed. He told me that a publisher was working on a "catch-all" volume to assemble his important writings. Although agreeable to the project, he made certain that the publisher do all the work.

At the end of my visit, Mr. Morison courteously escorted me down the stairs and through the many passageways to a point where I could find my way out, and I came away with the warm feeling that I had met a great person. I can assure his many readers who have not had the privilege of meeting him that Stanley Morison is every bit as impressive and fine a person as his writings indicate.

Some Random Reveries of a San Francisco Antiquarian Bookman

by Harold C. Holmes

[This is the third and final installment]

LTHOUGH the buying of old books is interesting and full of thrills, it also has its quota of pathos. To a real booklover, nothing is more personal than the books he has acquired over the years. They have not only been a continuous part of his very existence but, in addition, are an inseparable part of his memories. When the eventual time comes for dispersal, it is quite often a heart-rending situation. When financial conditions make this necessary, there is very little one can do other than attempt to point out that it would have been the former owner's wish that others should now have the same pleasure in acquiring these books that he himself has enjoyed. This is sound reasoning and, in most cases, is successful in easing the sorrow.

Incidents that tug a little at the heartstrings are connected with the old family Bibles—some of them with family records of marriages, births, and deaths—that occasionally find their way into an old bookshop. It is somewhat pathetic to conjure the happy bride and groom making their first entry and then the joyous couple recording their first-born. I once purchased

a small family library which contained a well-worn Bible printed in Boston in the early Forties, which recorded the following: "Married: Silas James Whitney and Mary Elizabeth Hale.

June 8, 1848."

Under births: "Mary Elizabeth Whitney. May 10, 1849." Under deaths: "Silas James Whitney. Aged 23 years, 7 months. Drowned July 9, 1849; and Mary Hale Whitney. 21 years, 3 months. Drowned July 9, 1849."

Calling this to the attention of the owner, I was informed that the Bible had belonged to his wife's mother and there was no one living who would care for it. I kept the Bible for some time, finally presenting it to a young bridal couple who had it rebound but preserved the records. In due course, they named their first-born Mary Elizabeth in sacred memory of the tragic couple

of 100 years ago.

An interesting but pathetic find that Fortune threw my way occurred some years ago. In San Francisco during the Christmas holidays of 1918, a frail old man entered the store and placed on the counter a small bundle of shabby old books tied with a string, which he offered for sale. A quick glance without untying the bundle convinced me that the lot was worthless and I expressed my regret that they were of no value to us. With a somewhat trembling voice, he asked, "Are you Mr. Holmes?" On my replying in the affirmative, he stated that he was temporarily in need and asked if I would give him a few cents for the lot. His plea seemed genuine so I gave him a silver dollar and, with profuse thanks, he departed. One of the clerks took the bundle and tossed it on a pile of old books in a rear room and there it remained for several weeks. One day in going over the pile, I came across the bundle and, on opening it, was astonished to find a rare New England Primer. Research identified it as being published in 1779 and disclosed the fact that only two copies were known to be extant. I had no way of locating the old gentleman and would probably not have recognized him if I had met him again. I kept it for about ten years before disposing of it.

Now and then in the process of buying where the seller is in dire need, a bookman becomes human. As an example, I was called out to see a small family library. It consisted of practically what dealers call "junk." I was debating in my mind whether

I would reject it or take it for a few dollars. At about this moment, three little children, poorly dressed and somewhat undernourished looking, entered the room. A short chat with the mother revealed her condition, with the result that my price soared far and beyond the value of the material. However, most bookmen are not entirely oblivious of the "still, small voice," and it is not too uncommon occasionally to pay a price in excess of sound business judgment.

Most antiquarian bookmen have their favorites. As a result, some very fine specialized collections have been assembled in the past. This, however, is not possible without absolute mutual confidence. Such was the condition which existed during a period of years with one of the most delightfully appreciative collectors with whom I have had the pleasure of associating.

Mrs. Katherine Jamieson was probably the first woman earnestly to enter the field of Western Americana collecting. She was born in San Francisco in 1857 and was the daughter of James W. Hillsee who superintended the brick work during the erection of the State Capitol and, to his credit, was responsible for the beautiful arches. She was married by Rev. Dwinelle at Sacramento in 1882 to Dr. Ebenezer Jamieson, son of a pioneer. The young couple then moved to Grass Valley where the doctor practiced medicine for about thirty years, later removing to Oakland. In the early years of her married life, she became deeply interested in the history of her native State. Her knowledge of historical events and wide acquaintance with its bibliography was equalled by few. From the time I first met her and until her passing, the greater part of her rarities was secured through my efforts.

A few of the outstanding items were Figueroa's Manifesto; Hackendorn and Wilson's Columbia Directory; Wierzbicki's San Francisco As It Was and It Will Be, San Francisco, 1849; Zamorano imprints; Mexican-California imprints of the Thirties; San Francisco imprints of the Fifties; and a host of other items, including perhaps the best collection of California amateur newspapers in private hands. The historical or literary value of an item was her measuring stick, the price was a secondary consideration, something which not every collector follows. A school teacher before her marriage, Mrs. Jamieson was a woman of culture

and education. This little lady who seemed to call to mind the daintiness of a Dresden statuette, acquired in a quiet way a number of unusual items, of some of which no other copies are at present known to be extant. Had she been granted another decade, her collection would have been matched by few. Fortunately, her library is still held intact by her family.

Thomas W. Norris, well known to most collectors, is a more recent example of the value of allying oneself with a responsible dealer. His collection over a number of years was built, to a considerable extent, through mutual efforts and confidence. When the time arrived to dispose of the library (excepting his manuscript collection which he still retains), his appreciation was shown in a material, as well as a friendly, attitude by allowing us to acquire it. The result of his years of collecting has been perpetuated, we hope, in the most sumptuous catalog ever issued by an antiquarian bookseller in the United States up to the present time. To have kept his friendship over the years has been no small part of our business relationship.

Although book-loving celebrities have visited our shops, it has not been my good fortune to meet many. Charles Howard Shinn was one of the first I had the pleasure of meeting. He was an ardent collector of Government reports relating to material on forestry, agriculture, and mining. He had a fund of anecdotes and interesting tales. In the early Eighties, Shinn was contributing articles and verse to *The Californian Magazine* and, in January 1883, he was instrumental in changing the name to *The Overland Monthly*, second series. Ambrose Bierce satirized the new name by calling it the *The Warmed-Overland*, which considerably irked Shinn.

At that time, Shinn commuted from Niles and Bierce lived in Oakland, and occasionally they took the same train. On one occasion, he and a friend happened to take a seat just back of Bierce. Shinn was almost stone deaf and, like most deaf people, talked in a very loud tone. Voicing the story of the Shinn-Bierce feud, he grew louder and louder, finally ending up with a vigorous comment on the big, black, evil-smelling cigar Bierce was smoking. Unable to stand it any longer, Bierce arose and stalked into the forward car greatly embarrassed by the smiles and laughter of those in the car. Shinn related that, "Thereafter,

Bierce never took a seat until he scanned the car and made sure that I was not there."

Shinn was an omniverous reader and a profuse writer. His contributions to historical, scientific, and literary magazines and journals were innumerable. He had a wide knowledge of the history of our State in all its phases. He was uncanny in picking a new author and prophesying his success. In 1912, he sent me Christopher Morley's Eighth Sin, just issued in a small edition while Morley was a student at Oxford, and suggested that I put it away because someday it would command a high price. I took his advice and, years later, sold it for \$100. Since then, it has soared into higher realms.

George Sterling was quite often a visitor and was always glad to autograph any of his volumes without charge. Edward Markham was also an occasional visitor. He demanded \$1.00 for his autograph and, if a line or two, another dollar. On his last visit, in the late 1930s, he bought about 200 books from the ten-cent table and had them shipped to his home in the East. He said he was going to sign them and give them to his friends—at \$1.00 each. The blind Senator Gore on his several visits was a large purchaser of books on political economy. In most instances, he was familiar with the author and knew if he already had the item.

Carl Sandburg never missed visiting me on his few trips to San Francisco. While he was engaged in writing *Lincoln's War Years*, I loaned him some very rare and highly expensive material for which he had been hunting for a long time. Impressed with what he termed "sportsmanship," he very kindly referred to me in the foreword as a "collaborator." At all times, I have been glad to supply information to those requesting it, when possible. As a result, quite a few authors have recognized this in their prefaces.

Rarely does an antiquarian bookman become a collector in the real sense. The temptation and, quite often, the need to sell are always present. Early in the business, I started to collect a selected list of American first editions but, for the above reasons, soon gave it up. Later, enamored by some of the quaint pioneer California booksellers' labels, I was instilled with the desire to collect them. As I do not know any collector in this field, it is rather safe to assume that this collection is somewhat unique.

It includes every variety in color, shape, size, rubber stamps, perforations, and so on. San Francisco is well covered from John H. Still, Kimball's Noisy Carrier-Publishing Hall at Long Wharf, and others to within recent times. Also many of the old mining towns and, in some instances, what are now ghost towns, are well represented and still being augmented with new acquisitions. However, the big job remains in their classification and research.

Aside from booksellers' labels, my interest in collecting has been concerned with letters written by early Californians during the first decade of the gold discovery. In addition to hundreds of original letters, there are a good number of transcripts of letters that were written and published in the hometown papers of the pioneers. As a portrayal of domestic life in the mines and the early mining towns, their value is unique. A plan to print some of them is now being considered.

Many strange things happen in the antiquarian book business and the following two anecdotes may not be amiss:

In 1861-1862, there was published Walsh's Humorist: A Chronicle of Life in San Francisco. It was a weekly with lurid colored plates and caricatured in a highly scurrilous manner the men of the day. As a result, Walsh landed in trouble and the publication was suspended. In 1921, I purchased a complete file from a dealer for \$25.00, which was thought to be a fair price. It later turned out to be the only complete file extant and I do not think another has yet been found. It was sent to the Anderson Galleries in New York to be sold at auction. William Randolph Hearst was present at the sale and was eager to buy it. However, he ran into spirited bidding, with the result that it brought \$610, with Hearst the successful bidder. He was so put out at what he called an outrageous price (so the story goes) that he arose and said, "Gentlemen, this is the last time I will buy a book at auction." I never checked him to see if he kept his word.

One day, I had a visit from a woman who asked me if I remembered buying her library about six months previously. At the moment, I could not place her and said I regretted being unable to remember the occasion. She at once became very agitated and seemed strongly to doubt my veracity. She then gave me her name, address, and the circumstances of the pur-

chase, and blurted out the statement that I had paid her \$35.00 for the library and in the lot was a first edition of Alice in Wonderland which the newspaper said, just yesterday, sold for \$25,000. I immediately informed her that the Alice mentioned in the newspaper was the original manuscript and that only one copy of it ever existed; and, in addition, I had never had even a first edition of the book. Her male friend then said, "Mr. Holmes, this lady's name was written in the book in pen and ink and, if you do not produce it, we will see our lawyer." They probably thought they heard the \$25,000 jingling in my pocket.

All this time, although it was an effort, I kept my composure. So I quietly said they were at liberty to inspect the copies we had in stock. Together, we went to the juvenile department and, from among the five or six copies of *Alice*, she grabbed one and, in an excited voice, exclaimed, "This is it, this is it!" The book was marked thirty-five cents, so I told her she might take it along. Nevertheless, she insisted on paying the price. At least I made a sale, but would have given much more to have witnessed her later awakening.

In closing, I quote the following quaint little verse which portrays the philosophy of the antiquarian bookman:

THE FORTY-NINER'S REVERIE

"At the end of the Rainbow the pot of gold lies" And it still doth beckon,
At least that's what some folks say, I reckon.
But until I'm called to the Heavenly abode,
I'll still keep "a diggin" on the old mother-lode.

The antiquarian bookman is the skillful miner who unearths and segregates from the dross the golden records of human thoughts and deeds. From the time he hawked manuscripts prior to Gutenberg, like the old miner, he has still kept "a diggin"."

Porter Garnett Memorial Keepsake

ENCLOSED with this number of the *News-Letter* is a special keepsake printed by the Grabhorn Press, and issued by the Club as a memorial to our fellow-Californian Porter Garnett, who has been described as "America's greatest teacher of printing," and who was one of the chief contributors to the revival of fine

printing. For further details on Mr. Garnett, members are referred to the April issue of *The Pacific Printer* which contains a highly significant testimonial written by Wilder Bentley, a former student and close friend of Mr. Garnett.

Annual Meeting

GEORGE L. HARDING was re-elected president of The Book Club of California following the Club's annual meeting held on Saturday, March 24. Other officers elected were: Mrs. John I. Walter, vice-president; Carroll T. Harris, treasurer; and Mrs. Elizabeth Downs, secretary.

The remaining directors re-elected for another year were: Lewis Allen, Miss Edith M. Coulter, Morgan A. Gunst, Joseph Henry Jackson, Oscar Lewis, Theodore M. Lilienthal, Albert Sperisen, Howard Willoughby, and Robert J. Woods. Flodden W. Heron is honorary secretary of the Club.

Club to publish Bret Harte Book

The Club takes pleasure in announcing plans for the publication of a Bret Harte item of unusual interest. In 1866, Harte contributed eleven columns to the *Springfield Republican*, in which he commented on events and personalities in San Francisco. Professor George R. Stewart has written an informative introduction to these letters which will appear for the first time in book form under the title, San Francisco in 1866, Being Letters to the Springfield Republican by Bret Harte, Edited by George R. Stewart and Edwin S. Fussell.

The book is being designed and printed at the Grabhorn Press and will be published in June. Members will soon receive a descriptive announcement and order card.

Cifts to the Library

One of the Club's major objectives during the coming months is to complete and put into effect plans for building up the library to the point where it will be a useful working tool to every member seeking information on subjects bearing on his hobby. The eventual aim is to assemble, in addition to a typographical library, a comprehensive collection of the standard bibliographical reference works. Toward that end, a program is now being worked out, the details of which will be outlined in the next number of the *Quarterly*.

Meantime, the gifts to the library during the past three months—all of which are gratefully acknowledged—are listed below:

Illuminated leaf from early missal; Isaiah Thomas, Printer, Patriot and Philanthropist 1749–1831 by Clifford K. Shipton; Gregory Dexter of London and New England 1610–1700 by Bradford F. Swan; and Peter Schoeffer of Garnsheim and Mainz by Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt (The Printing House of Leo Hart); An Early Manuscript of the Aesop Fables of Avianus and Related Manuscripts by Adolph Goldschmidt, Illustrations in Roll and Codex. A Study of the Origin and Method of Text Illustration by Kurt Weitzmann (Volumes 1 & 2, Studies in Manuscript Illumination, Princeton University Press); Fifty Printers' Marks by Edwin Elliott

Willoughby (The Book Arts Club, University of California). Gifts of THOMAS J. PORRO.

The New Colophon, 1950. Gift of PHILIP C. DUSCHNES.

Ambrose Bierce—The Devil's Lexicographer by Paul Fatout (University of Oklahoma Press). Gift of PAUL FATOUT.

Dynaton by Jacqueline Johnson, Lee Mulligan, Gordon Onslow-Ford, and

Wolfgang Paalen (The Greenwood Press). Gift of JACK STAUFFACHER.

A Contribution Toward a Check List of Bibliographies and Reference Material Relating to the History of the States and Territories of the American West including Alaska and Hawaii by Henry Herman Evans, and other imprints of the Peregrine Press. Gifts of HENRY HERMAN EVANS.

Three broadsides by John Henry Nash. Gifts of Joseph Fauntleroy. Poems written and printed by Gene Tansey. Gift of GENE TANSEY.

The Feather-Vender Zodiac Calendar designed by W. A. Dwiggins. Gift of JACKSON BURKE.

Far Afield, Number 3, Spring, 1951 (The Arundo Press). Gift of f. f. thomas, jr. The Grolier Club, 1950, Yearbook. Gift of the Grolier Club.

Literary and Historical Manuscripts in the Clark Memorial Library by H. Richard Archer. Gift of H. RICHARD ARCHER.

Subscription to Western Printer and Lithographer. Gift of ROBY WENTZ.

Subscription to The Pony Express. Gift of LEWIS FERBRACHÉ.

Book Handbook, "Illustrated quarterly for discriminating booklovers." Gift of DROPMORE PRESS, London.

Exhibition Note

The show current at the Club rooms is the work of Kermit Sheets of the Centaur Press and Adrian Wilson, printer at the sign of the Interplayers, two promising young San Francisco printers. From June 2nd to July 7th, the Club will exhibit graphic work of Mallette Dean, probably the foremost book decorator and engraver in the West. This show will be the first comprehensive exhibition of Dean's work in this field. Following, we plan our annual exhibition of the work of members. This is scheduled from July 7th to August 4th. All known members contributing to some form of the art of the book will be notified by letter during June. And from August 4th to September 1st, the Club will show the various imprints and publishing pseudonyms of the San Francisco printing firm, Johnck & Seeger.

Pioneer Western Playbills, the 1951 Keepsakes

Again, your Keepsake Committee must ask your indulgence. This is regrettable but we became over-enthused with the windfall of old theatrical programs spontaneously contributed by members and friends when we first announced our intentions, and we felt more than certain of filling a twelve-part series easily. However, after careful sorting and cataloguing our great find, we discovered some very obvious "holes." We lacked (of all things) a Lola Montez program, we had too many duplications of locale and we missed too many known impor-

tant plays. We are still trying to put together for the members twelve important programs representing the historic theatres in the West, the most important actors and actresses in the best plays. Dr. Frank Fenton, our editor-in-chief, has done a remarkable job in selecting authorities to contribute the necessary comments. If all will continue as planned, our first four: the grand opening of the new California Theatre in San Francisco, January 18, 1869, Lotta Crabtree in "Little Nell and the Marchioness," Julia Dean Hayne in "Camille" and Annette Ince and J. B. Booth in "As You Like It" will be in the mails by the first week of June.

Elected to Membership

The following have been elected to membership since the Spring issue of the News-Letter:

MEMBER ADDRESS Miss Cora A. Beard Miss Dorothy Abbe Hingham, Mass. James Ahajian Mrs. Edna M. Parratt San Francisco Alexander G. Bartlett, M.D. San Francisco Miss Constance Spencer Edwin T. Coman, Jr. Riverside Miss Edith M. Coulter Lucius Beebe Virginia City, Nev. Joseph Henry Jackson Mrs. Jack J. Corbet Pico Glen Dawson J. Ray Corliss La Crescenta W. J. Duddleson, Jr. Lloyd Corrigan Los Angeles Maxwell Hunley Wilson G. Duprey Stanford Miss Jeannette Hitchcock San Francisco Mrs. Willard Alan Greiner Thompson S. Weikel San Francisco Herbert S. Hamlin Lewis Ferbraché John Martin Hardy Oakland Harold C. Holmes Robert A. Jackson Berkeley James Tice Phillips Marshall Lane Atlanta, Georgia P. K. Thomajan Richard N. McArthur Atlanta, Georgia P. K. Thomajan Judge Archie D. Mitchell Ontario John Bright S. Walter Newman San Francisco Lawrence Livingston Philip A. Ray San Francisco F. F. Thomas, Jr. B. F. Schlessinger Los Angeles Wm. L. Butler Paul C. Smith San Francisco Jackson Burke John Howell Philip C. Smith San Francisco San Francisco Carroll T. Harris Forrest Tancer Emil Vacin San Marino Alfred Matthews Charles P. Yale Pasadena George L. Harding Columbia University New York, New York Wilson G. Duprey San Jose State College San Tose Mrs. Elizabeth Downs Oakland Public Museum Oakland Mrs. Elizabeth Downs Riverside Miss Edith M. Coulter University of California

Miscellany

This Year's exhibition of Western Books includes all four titles published by the Club in 1950: Mother of Felipe and Other Early Stories by Mary Austin (Anderson

& Ritchie), George Clymer and the Columbian Press by Jacob Kainen (Taylor & Taylor), Muleback to the Convention by J. Ross Browne (The Black Vine Press), and Maps of the San Francisco Bay Region by Neal Harlow (The Grabhorn Press). The latter received the highest rating from the three Rounce & Coffin Club judges: Albert Sperisen, San Francisco; Fridolf Johnson and Jake Zeitlin, both of Los Angeles. This year's show, which will appear in many cities throughout the West, is comprised of thirty-seven books by twenty-two Western printers, and were chosen for their typographical excellence.

Although the Club did not submit books to the American Institute of Graphic Arts' Fifty Books of the Year (because of the requirement of seven copies of winning entries), two titles were submitted by the printers, and were selected: Muleback to the Convention (The Black Vine Press), and George Clymer and the

Columbian Press (Taylor & Taylor).

FOR THE BENEFIT of members who have hesitated in their quest of a copy of the *Gutenberg Bible*, following is an excerpt from a news item which appeared recently in *The Hamilton News*, Ontario, Canada: "Stan Plomish not only collects neckties (he has 501 of 'em), but also owns a first-edition Gutenberg Bible, printed in Germany about the 14th century, and valued by collectors at \$8,000."

In the last few years, we have been reminded frequently that there are many more private presses in operation in California than in any other section of the country. Most recently, this was brought to our attention by a lengthy, illustrated article in the March issue of Western Printer & Lithographer: "Private Presses in the West" by Jack D. Rittenhouse. There are some two dozen presses described briefly, and the author states that further details will appear in subsequent issues. If you play with type and press, it is suggested that you drop a note to the W. P. & L., 3923 West 6th Street, Los Angeles 5.

AN ILLUSTRATED quarterly for booklovers, *Book Handbook*, now published by The Dropmore Press, 9 Great James Street, London W. C. 1, announces a new editorial board of Reginald Horrox, Edward Shanks, and Clarence Winchester. The issue just received contains articles on "Gill Vicente & Shakespeare" by Ann Livermore, "Signed Manuscripts in My Collection" by Sir Sidney Cockerell, "The Queen's Book" by Horace Wyndham, and "An Encounter with G. B. S." by Gilbert A. Fabes; an eight-page art section was also included. (Price eleven shillings a year.)

The Arthur H. Clark Company of Glendale, California, announces publication of a book by Aurora Hunt, *The Army of the Pacific*, its operations in California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, plains region, Mexico, etc. 1860–1866. (Large 8vo, 455 pages, with an extensive bibliography, analytical index, 17 plates and a folding map; price \$10.00.)

MARK TWAIN'S own volume of his classic *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, was sold for \$325 last month in Los Angeles, when his daughter, Mrs. Clara Samossoud, directed auctioneers to dispose of Twain's personal effects, including his 3000-volume library. Mrs. Samossoud, when interviewed by a *Los Angeles Times* reporter, remembered that her father "was full of fun, and he played a lot with us. But sometimes, when he was serious, it was as if we didn't exist." Among the effects, were many letters, including correspondence with Rudyard Kipling, Johann Strauss, and other greats of the Nineteenth Century. One letter, declining an invitation to attend the funeral of a senator, said: "I can't attend the Senator's funeral, but I heartily approve."

In previous issues of the *News-Letter*, we have called attention to *Far Afield*, the amateur publication of Club member, Frederick Folger Thomas Jr. of Berkeley. Number 3 is now off the press, and in the colophon, Mr. Thomas tells us that it "was handset and printed at the Arundo Press (out here in the garage), for distribution to friends . . . The State of California has ordained that mere possession of a "one-armed bandit" [former name of the Thomas press] shall be unlawful. Our resolutely proper little clamshell [a 6x9 Pilot press] with all the haste consistent with unhurried dignity, has had its name changed. The new one seems beyond reproach. And, as a reluctant third choice, perhaps it will not be found to have been preempted by somebody else—as was the second choice, Alcuin, with not-too-learned allusion to the Carolingian minuscule."

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In Ambrose Bierce—The Devil's Lexicographer, by Paul Fatout, recently published by the University of Oklahoma Press, we are reminded that A.B. once said that an experienced writer "must be a sinner and in turn a saint, a hero, and a wretch." For upwards of forty years, Ambrose Bierce made West Coast journalism crackle with personal feuds, newspaper vendettas, and a generous helping of journalistic insult, wit, and satire. In a style as sharply witty as Bierce's own, Paul Fatout has related the turbulent story of the author of The Devil's Dictionary. Mr. Fatout is a graduate of Purdue University where he is at present associate professor of English, and holds higher degrees from Pennsylvania State College and Columbia University. The author of many articles in the field of American literature, he has been interested in Bierce since the nineteen twenties. For the next issue of the News-Letter, Mr. Fatout has contributed "Ambrose Bierce Writes About War," an article which members will find singularly apropos, and highly intriguing.

THE ASSUMPTION that the first printing from movable type was accomplished in Fifteenth Century Germany was contested recently by Dr. Richard C. Rudolph, associate professor of Oriental languages at UCLA. According to Dr. Rudolph, it was the Chinese who first experimented with movable type made from clay, wood, and metal as early as the first part of the Eleventh Century. However, he tells us that they soon abandoned its use until the latter part of the Fifteenth Century because of the kind of ink used and expense involved in

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making the many characters—probably a minimum of 800. Examples of printing from the Eleventh Century type were exhibited recently at the UCLA Library.

The Peregrine Press, private press of San Francisco bookseller, Henry H. Evans, and his wife, Patricia, has just issued First Duet, a portfolio of ten folio leaves (22x15). Appropriately produced on a handpress, the text by Mr. Evans concerns his philosophy of handpress printing; engravings by Mrs. Evans accompany but do not illustrate the text. As Mr. Evans explains, until the book was printed, the illustrator and author worked independently without being influenced by the subject matter of the other. As a result, the art work, although startlingly attractive in itself, provides merely a decorative background for the text. (Price \$10.00)

THAT THERE IS an increasing interest in bibliographies concerned with South Pacific printing is substantiated by *The Tahitian Imprints of the London Missionary Society, 1810–1834*, compiled by George L. Harding and Bjarne Kroepelien (Oslo, Norway), and recently issued in an edition of 133 copies under the imprint of La Coquille Qui Chante, Oslo.

According to the editors, the object of the bibliography is to help preserve from oblivion the names of the presses and those connected with them, and to secure further information for a final and definitive edition to be published later.

A few copies remain Requests will be filled in order of receipt.

Thristmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Printed by the Grabhorn Press. Illustrated with four-color linoleum cuts by Mallette Dean. Handset in 18 pt. Lutetia type and printed on Van Gelder mould-made paper. 75 pages, 14 x 94 inches, bound in figured boards.

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